

Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, October 20, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Draft Meeting Notes

Action Items

- Suggestions for groups that would like a presentation about the BDCP should be e-mailed to b.gerbs@resources.ca.gov.
- Recommendations for the science advisors and facilitator should be sent to Cindy Darling (cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov) and Laura King Moon (laurak@swc.com).
- Steering Committee members should review the Draft Plan for 2006 Environmental Water Account (EWA) Technical Review and e-mail comments to Cindy Darling at Resources (cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov), Ron Ott (ronott@calwater.ca.gov), or Jana Machula (janam@calwater.ca.gov) at CALFED as soon as possible.
- K. Scarborough to distribute a schedule for next quarter's Steering Committee meetings.
- C. Darling to develop a flow chart that illustrates the role of the science advisors and facilitator in relation to the Steering Committee.

1. Introductions/Updates

- See attached list for meeting attendees.
- Information related to the BDCP can now be accessed on the Resources Agency's website at: http://resources.ca.gov/bay_delta_conservation_plan.html.
- BDCP representatives have been conducting briefings for legislative staff and water lobbyists and are planning on briefing environmental lobbyists soon. Anyone who knows of a group that would like to be briefed should e-mail bethg@resources.ca.gov.
- Zone 7 Water Agency's Board of Directors was the first Steering Committee member to approve the Planning Agreement.
- There are still outstanding signatures on the MOA. The Steering Committee is aiming to have all signatures by November.
- Secretary Chrisman recently appointed Michael Healey as CALFED's new lead scientist.

2. Workplan/Budget Sub Group

The Steering Committee Workplan/Budget Subgroup will be conducting consultant interviews on Friday, October 27. The subgroup will aim to have a recommendation by the next Steering Committee meeting. Once a consultant is chosen, the contract will be administered by Zone 7 Water Agency. Zone 7 expects to seek contract approval at their December 20 Board of Directors meeting.

Handout:

- Summary Scope of Work (07.14.06)

3. Science Next Steps

The Steering Committee discussed options for science advisors for the BDCP. The purpose of the science advisors will be to provide the Steering Committee with independent scientific analysis from a broad range of disciplines throughout the planning process. The science advisors will not be responsible for developing the BDCP, but rather for providing guidance to the consultant team and to the Steering Committee as the plan is prepared. The Steering Committee also discussed whether a facilitator should be brought on to facilitate the science advisors and bridge the gap between the advisors and the Steering Committee. There were mixed views on the value of a facilitator, and it was suggested that there be a follow-up presentation with some examples of what role a facilitator would play with regard to science.

While the Steering Committee is still discussing and planning the specifics of how the science advisor process will be structured, all agreed that this is an important foundation for the BDCP and the Steering Committee must take the time to plan accordingly. Meanwhile, recommendations for the science advisors and facilitator should be sent to Cindy Darling (cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov) and Laura King Moon (laurak@swc.com).

Handout:

- Proposed description of Science Advisory Board

Related information:

- To examine independent scientific reports for other NCCPs, visit DFG's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/nccp/science.htm>
- To examine the independent science review of OCAP, visit CALFED's website at: http://science.calwater.ca.gov/workshop/workshop_ocap.shtml

4. EWA Review

The EWA is undergoing its annual technical review. The focus of this year's review is to determine how effective the EWA has been at addressing biological benefits. Steering Committee members were asked to review the Draft Plan for 2006 EWA Technical Review and determine whether there are technical questions that the EWA should consider in relation to the BDCP. Email comments to Cindy Darling at Resources (cindy.darling@resources.ca.gov), or Ron Ott (ronott@calwater.ca.gov) or Jana Machula (janam@calwater.ca.gov) at the CALFED Science Program as soon as possible.

Handout:

- Draft Plan for 2006 EWA Technical Review (October 19, 2006)

5. Covered Activities Discussion

The Steering Committee continued its discussion about which activities will be covered by the BDCP. The Steering Committee has not yet decided whether the plan should include levees as covered activities. Some also had questions about how reservoir operations would be handled in the analysis. This will continue to be a topic of discussion at future Steering Committee meetings.

Handout:

- Bay-Delta Conservation Planning Agreement, Section 7.5 (Page 16–17) (October 6, 2006)

6. Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. A PCL representative stated that the BDCP Science Advisory Board's fundamental question should be how much water the Delta requires under varying conditions. Based on the answer to this question, it can then begin answering other questions.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please note that Steering Committee meetings now will occur monthly, with meetings in between as necessary. A schedule for next quarter's meetings will be distributed soon.

Handouts

- Summary Scope of Work (July 14, 2006)
- Proposed description of Science Advisory Board
- Draft Plan for EWA technical review (October 19, 2006)
- Bay Delta Conservation Planning Agreement Covered Activities (October 6, 2006)